

MARVEL

#1

CIVIL WAR II

THE OATH

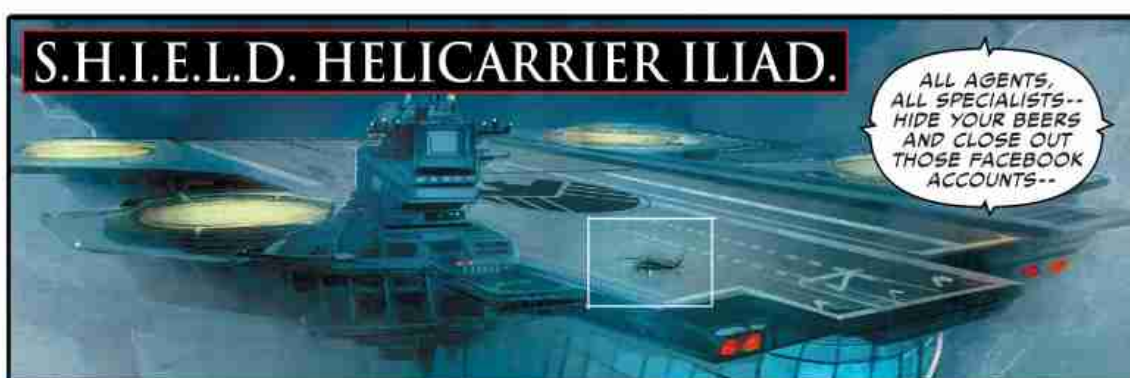
NICK SPENCER
ROD REIS



HotComic.net



S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER ILIAD.





SIR!

AT EASE,
SOLDIER.



GOOD EVENING,
SIR--IT'S--IT'S ALL
READY FOR YOU,
JUST LIKE YOU
ASKED.

THANK
YOU.

IT'S AN
HONOR, SIR--
AND--IF I
MAY SPEAK
FREELY?

GO RIGHT
AHEAD.



WE ALL WATCHED YOU
THIS AFTERNOON, DOWN
IN THE REC, SIR AND--
IT'S JUST--

--IT'S GOOD TO BE
INSPIRED AGAIN, YOU
KNOW? BEEN, UM...A LOT
OF TURNOVER THESE LAST
FEW YEARS, IF YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN--

I DO. AND
THAT'S ABOUT
TO END--



--I CAN
PROMISE
YOU THAT
MUCH.



YES, SIR--WELL, YOUR
GUEST--OR **WHATEVER**--IS
RIGHT IN THERE. THE ROOM
IS TOTALLY QUIET, SWEEP
IT MYSELF. JUST LIKE
YOU ASKED.

I GOT
THAT PART.

YES, SIR.
AND IF YOU NEED
ANYTHING--WATER,
JUICE, COFFEE--I
GOTTA IMAGINE
YOU'RE PRETTY
BEAT AT THIS
POINT--



YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA.



WHAT A
WASTE.



CIVIL WAR II

THE OATH

A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES, WHO CLAIMED TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE FUTURE, SPARKED A CIVIL WAR IN THE SUPER HERO COMMUNITY. CAPTAIN MARVEL BELIEVED THAT IF SHE HAD A CHANCE TO AVERT CATASTROPHE AND SAVE LIVES, SHE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACT. BUT IRON MAN BELIEVED THAT ULYSSES' OWN BIASES AND EXPERIENCES INFLUENCED HIS VISIONS, AND CLAIMED THAT ACTING ON THEM WAS NO DIFFERENT THAN PROFILING.

A PREDICTION THAT THE YOUNGER SPIDER-MAN WOULD KILL STEVE ROGERS LURED CAPTAIN MARVEL AND IRON MAN INTO A VIOLENT FINAL CLASH OVER THE CAPITOL BUILDING-- A CLASH THAT LEFT TONY STARK CRITICALLY INJURED. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BATTLE, ULYSSES EVOLVED BEYOND HUMAN PERCEPTION AND VANISHED, ENDING THE WAR.

BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS RECENTLY TURNED INTO AN UNDERCOVER HYDRA AGENT BY A COSMIC CUBE, AND THERE MAY BE EVEN DARKER THINGS ON THE HORIZON...

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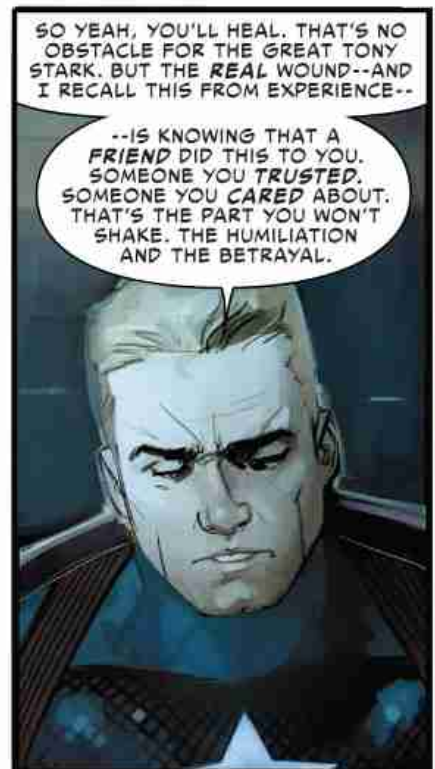
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THE SECOND IS THAT I ALWAYS KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU.

NOT BECAUSE I ENGINEERED IT, UNDERSTAND. AND NOT BECAUSE SOMEONE SHOWED ME THE FUTURE--

--BUT BECAUSE THIS WAS ALWAYS WHERE YOU WERE GOING TO END UP. ALL OF YOU.



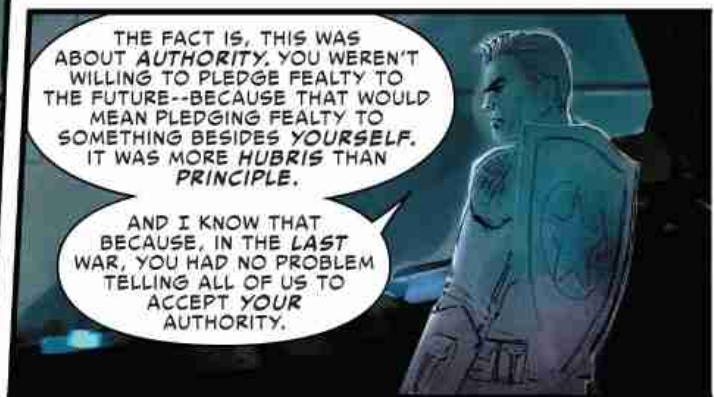
I DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU ALL STARTED TO REALLY LOSE TOUCH--WHEN YOU FORGOT WHO YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE FIGHTING FOR--BUT YOU DID.

AND BEFORE YOU KNEW IT, ALL YOUR BIGGEST BATTLES WERE WITH EACH OTHER.



NOW, YOU'D TELL ME THAT'S NOT FAIR. THAT YOU AND DANVERS WERE BOTH ARGUING ABOUT HOW TO MAKE THE WORLD SAFER--THAT YOUR MOTIVES WERE PURE.

YOU'D SAY THAT BECAUSE IT'S THE LIE YOU'VE BEEN TELLING YOURSELF THE ENTIRE TIME.



THE FACT IS, THIS WAS ABOUT **AUTHORITY**. YOU WEREN'T WILLING TO PLEDGE FEALTY TO THE FUTURE--BECAUSE THAT WOULD MEAN PLEDGING FEALTY TO SOMETHING BESIDES **YOURSELF**. IT WAS MORE **HUBRIS** THAN **PRINCIPLE**.

AND I KNOW THAT BECAUSE, IN THE **LAST** WAR, YOU HAD NO PROBLEM TELLING ALL OF US TO ACCEPT **YOUR** AUTHORITY.

I GUESS YOU CAN'T REALLY BE BLAMED, THOUGH, CAN YOU? THE SYSTEM YOU LIVE IN IS SO CORRUPT FROM TOP TO BOTTOM IT COULDN'T HELP BUT INFECT YOU.

BUT WHILE YOU WERE BUSY FIGHTING AMONGST YOURSELVES? YOU **MISS**ED SOMETHING.

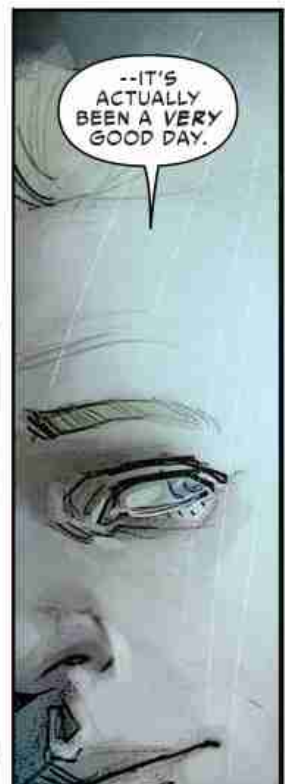


PEOPLE--THE NAMELESS, FACELESS PEOPLE YOU APPOINTED YOURSELVES THE GUARDIANS OF-- THEY DECIDED THEY'D HAD **ENOUGH**. THEY WANTED TO FEEL SAFE AND PROTECTED, AND THEY FINALLY REALIZED YOU DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE THE STRENGTH TO GET THEM THERE.

THEY STARTED TO DEMAND SOMETHING BETTER. AND ON THAT FRONT--



--IT'S ACTUALLY BEEN A **VERY** GOOD DAY.



EARLIER.

--WE NOW GO LIVE TO
CAPITOL HILL, WHERE
STEVE ROGERS--CAPTAIN
AMERICA--IS BEING SWORN
IN AS DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.--
IN THE KIND OF GALA CEREMONY
USUALLY RESERVED FOR
HEADS OF STATE--

THIS WILL BE ROGERS'
SECOND STINT AS DIRECTOR
OF S.H.I.E.L.D., THE FIRST
COMING AFTER THE DISSOLUTION
OF H.A.M.M.E.R. AND NORMAN
OSBORN'S SIEGE OF ASGARD,
WHEN THE WORLD WAS STILL
RECOVERING FROM THE EVENTS
OF THE FIRST SUPERHUMAN
CIVIL WAR.

THIS TENURE
IS LIKELY TO BE
MARKEDLY DIFFERENT,
HOWEVER--





--IN LARGE PART
THANKS TO THE NEWLY
PASSED S.H.I.E.L.D. ACT,
WHICH WAS JUST SIGNED
INTO LAW WITH BIPARTISAN
SUPPORT IN CONGRESS.

THE ACT DRAMATICALLY
EXPANDS S.H.I.E.L.D.'S
AUTHORITY WITHIN THE
UNITED STATES--IN AREAS
OF LAW ENFORCEMENT,
MASS SURVEILLANCE, AND
RESOURCE ALLOCATION--
EVEN ALLOWING THE
ORGANIZATION TO BECOME
A DE FACTO "TOP COP" IN
THE EVENT OF A NATIONAL
STATE OF EMERGENCY.



MANY NATIONAL
SECURITY EXPERTS
WERE QUICK TO
SOUND ALARM
BELLS.

James Green

ANY TIME WE CONSOLIDATE THIS MUCH
POWER IN ONE INDIVIDUAL, IT'S ALMOST
INEVITABLE THAT WE SEE ABUSE. AND
OBVIOUSLY, CAPTAIN AMERICA IS NO
ORDINARY MAN, BUT THE PRECEDENT
THAT THIS SETS--

THERE'S LITTLE
CHANCE OUR CURRENT
UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL
LAW CAN SURVIVE
THIS.



BUT OTHERS--
LIKE COMMENTATOR
HARRY HAUSER--
DISAGREE--

Harry Hauser

WHAT THIS DOES IS SIMPLE--IT CLEARS OUT
THE BUREAUCRACY AND THE CORRUPTION. IT
GIVES CONTROL BACK TO THE
PEOPLE!

I MEAN, LOOK AT OUR
CHOICES IN THIS LAST CIVIL WAR--
A LEFT-COAST TECH BILLIONAIRE AND
AN ESTABLISHMENT NEOCON HAWK.
PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF BEING RULED
BY OUT-OF-TOUCH ELITES WHO ARE
ONLY LOOKING TO GAIN MORE
INFLUENCE FOR THEMSELVES!

THEY WANT A REAL
LEADER, SOMEONE WHO
WILL STAND UP FOR THEM--
AND HAS THE POWER
TO GET THINGS DONE.



AND WITH LOOMING
THREATS OF TERRORISM
AND INVASION ON THE
HORIZON, MANY HEROES
WHO SERVE WITH ROGERS
WERE QUICK TO SHOW
THEIR SUPPORT--

Sam Wilson

LOOK, IF THIS WAS ANYONE ELSE,
I MIGHT BE WORRIED. BUT THIS IS
STEVE ROGERS. I TRUST THE
MAN WITH MY LIFE.

AND IF HE SAYS THIS IS
SOMETHING HE NEEDS, THEN I
SAY WE GIVE IT TO HIM. BECAUSE--
LOOKING AROUND AT WHERE WE
ARE RIGHT NOW? PRETTY
CLEAR TO ME--

--WE NEED
CAPTAIN AMERICA
MORE THAN
EVER.

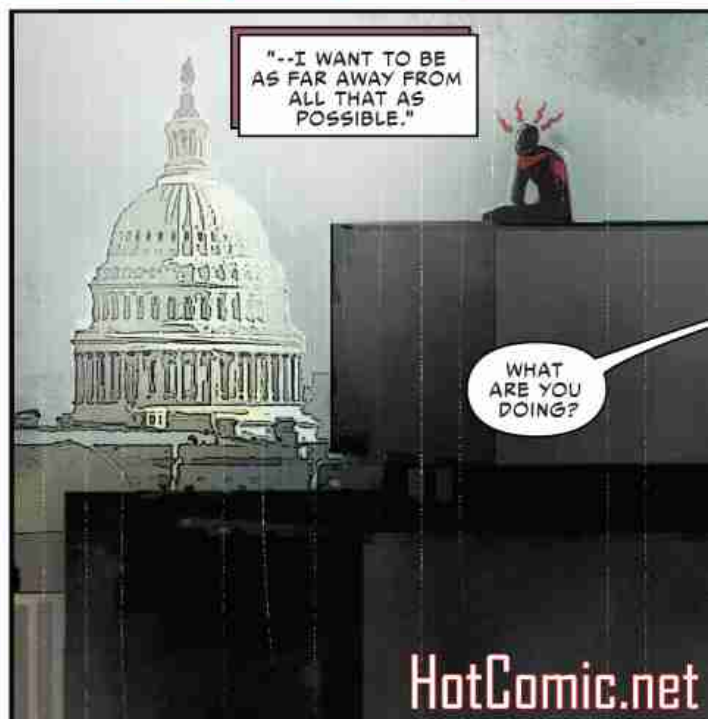
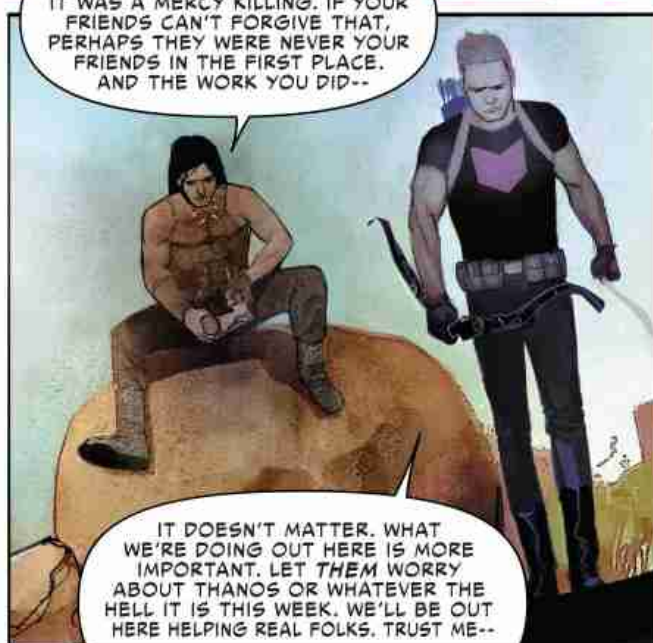
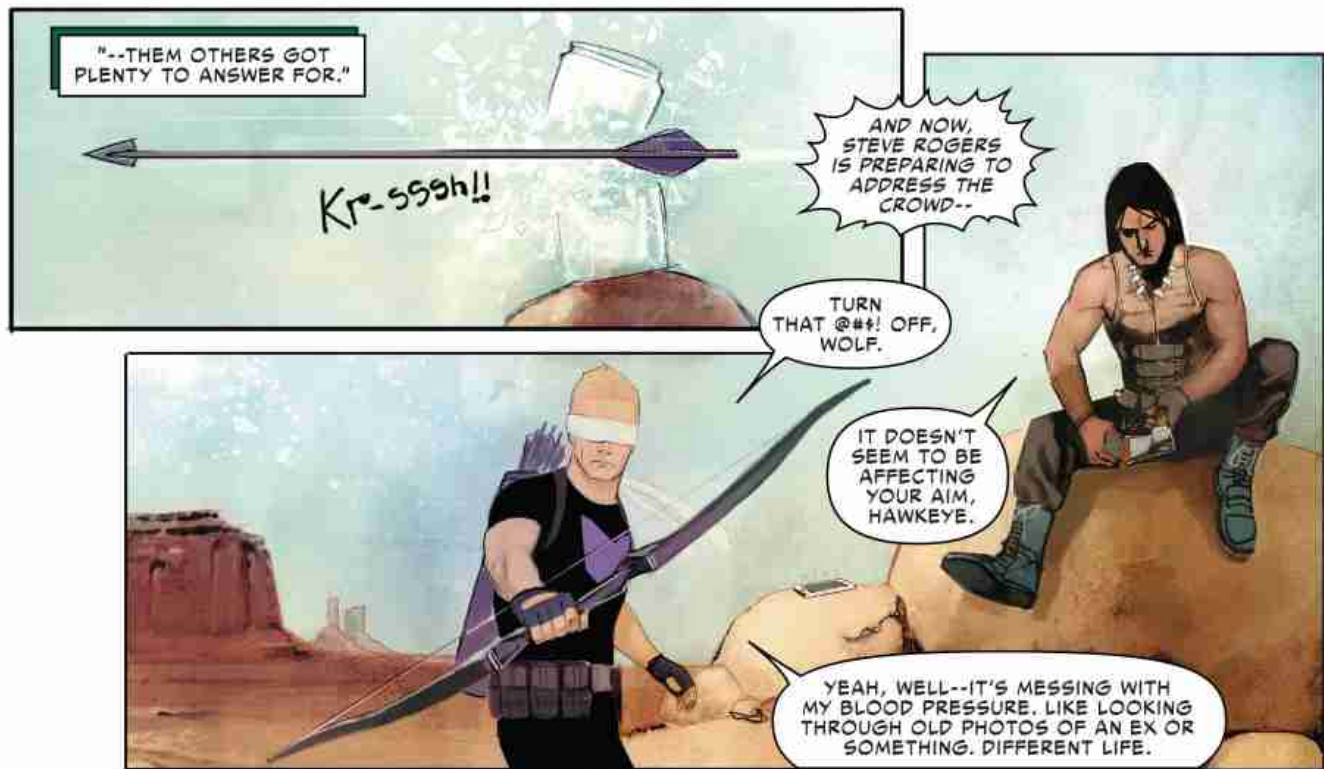


A SENTIMENT
ECHOED BY THE
HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS WHO
HAVE COME TO
SEE HIM SWORN
IN.

Jason Henry

I--I THINK HE'S
GONNA MAKE US SAFE.
HE'S GONNA CLEAN UP
THIS MESS, AND HE'S
GONNA MAKE US
PROUD.

WE'RE FINALLY
GONNA HAVE SOMEONE
IN THERE THAT KNOWS
WHAT HE'S DOIN',
'CAUSE GOOD
LORD--





"--NOT EVERY DAY
HISTORY GETS MADE."

I UNDERSTAND
THE FEAR YOU
FEEL.

YOU'RE LOOKING
AROUND YOU AT A
WORLD YOU DON'T
RECOGNIZE ANYMORE.
A WORLD THAT DOESN'T
SEEM TO MAKE
SENSE TO YOU
ANYMORE.

I'VE BEEN THERE.
WHEN THEY PULLED
ME OUT OF THE ICE,
I WOKE UP TO SO MANY
CHANGES--SOME AMAZING.
NEW TECHNOLOGIES THAT
MADE OUR LIVES EASIER.
ADVANCES IN HUMAN
RIGHTS AND A
GROWING YEARNING
FOR PEACE.

BUT
OTHERS WERE
TERRIFYING.

DOOMSDAY
WEAPONS. PEOPLE
BEING BORN WITH
STRANGE ABILITIES
THEY COULDN'T
CONTROL. GODS
WALKING THE
EARTH.

WHAT I LEARNED--
WHAT HELPED ME *COPE*
WITH THAT--IS AN
UNDERSTANDING THAT
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE,
THE MORE THEY REALLY
DO STAY THE SAME.

THAT THERE ARE
VALUES WE HOLD--BELIEFS
THAT WE HAVE--THAT ARE
TIMELESS, AND REMAIN
TRUE IN THE FACE OF
ANY THREAT.

AND WE DO FACE
SOME THREATS NOW.
PERHAPS MORE THAN
EVER BEFORE. THEY'VE
CERTAINLY BECOME
MORE *INSIDIOUS*.

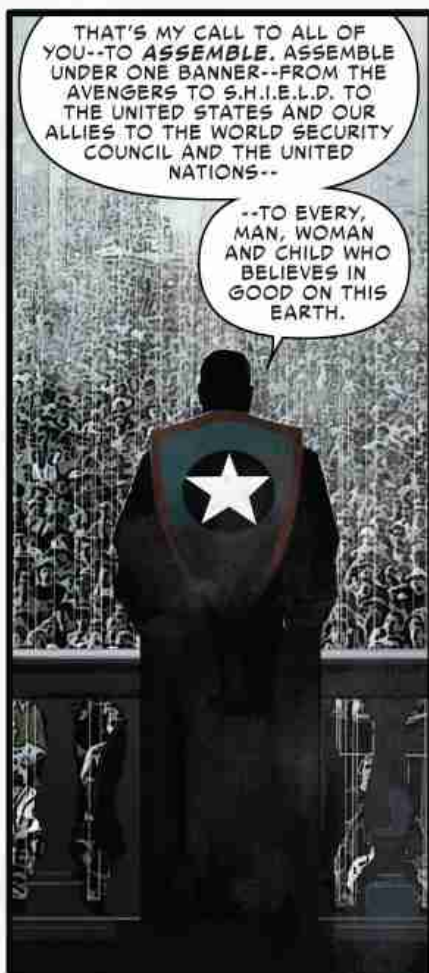
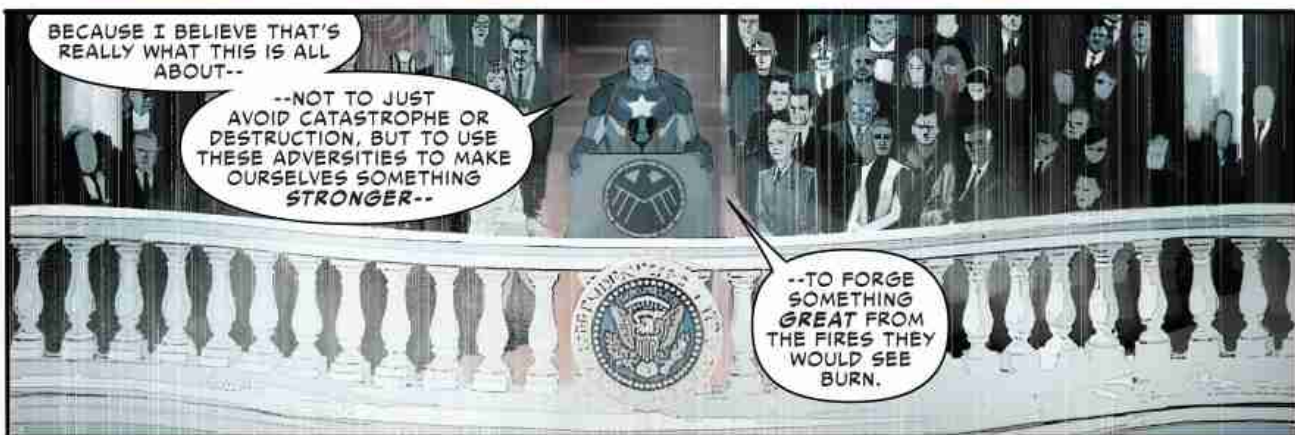
"THIS NEW HYDRA AND ITS
TERRORISTIC ATTACKS HAVE
MADE AMERICANS AFRAID TO
CONGREGATE IN PUBLIC AND
DISTRUSTFUL OF THEIR OWN
NEIGHBORS--WHILE THEY
SPREAD A MESSAGE OF
HATE TO THE MOST
VULNERABLE AMONG US.

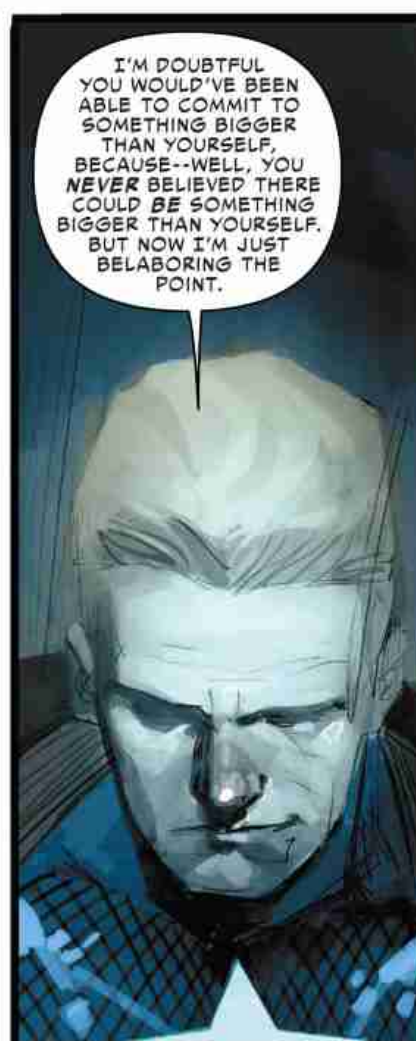
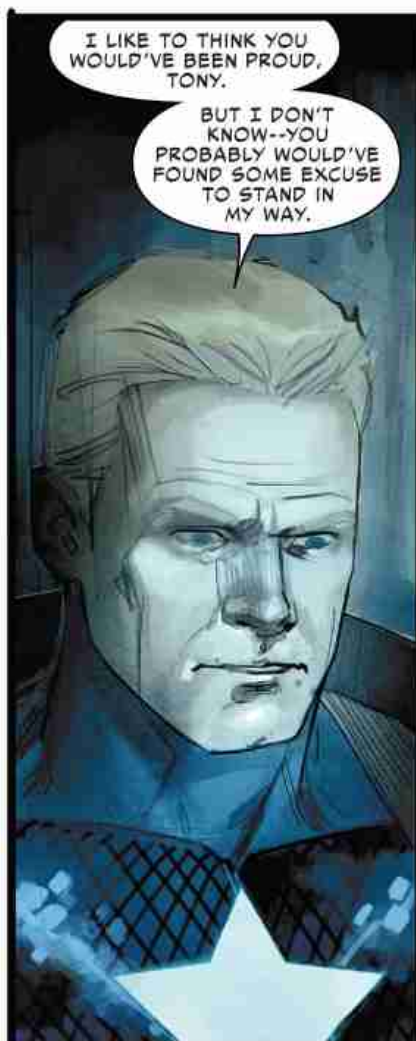
"UNKNOWN MONSTERS FROM
BEYOND THE STARS FILL US
WITH A SENSE OF OMINOUS
DREAD, MAKING US QUESTION
OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE.

"AND THEN THERE ARE
THE MONSTERS WE
KNOW ALL TOO WELL--
THE ONES WE'VE
STRUGGLED AGAINST
FOR SO LONG--

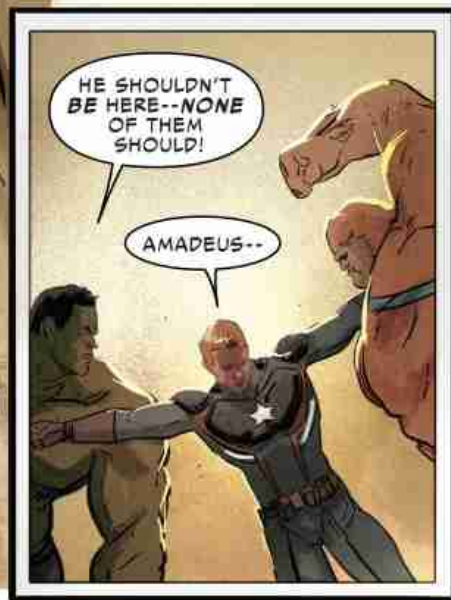
"--THE ONES WHO
WOULD SEEK TO
TEAR DOWN
EVERYTHING WE'VE
WORKED *SO HARD*
TO BUILD."











"...IT'S BEEN A BIG WEEK."

THE WHITE HOUSE. DAYS EARLIER.

WE CALL IT THE PLANETARY DEFENSE SHIELD, MR. PRESIDENT. AN IMPENETRABLE FORCE FIELD DESIGNED TO STOP THE EARTHBOUND FLOW OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL TRAVEL--HOSTILE OR OTHERWISE--IN ITS TRACKS.

COLONEL DANVERS, WHEN YOU SAY "IMPENETRABLE"--

WE NEED TO DO THE FIELD TESTING, BUT ON PAPER, IT LOOKS LIKE GALACTUS HIMSELF COULDN'T BRING THIS THING DOWN, SIR. IT WILL PERFORM AS ADVERTISED.

AND THAT'S IMPORTANT GIVEN WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW.

THIS LAST CIVIL WAR STARTED BECAUSE THANOS AND A CELESTIAL WERE ABLE TO JUST SHOW UP AND NOT SEE A SINGLE BIT OF RESISTANCE UNTIL THEY MADE LANDFALL.

AND WE'RE LOOKING AT THIS INCOMING CHITAUURI FLEET--WHICH IS THE LARGEST SINGLE ALIEN ARMY TO EVER COME OUR WAY, EVEN BIGGER THAN THE ANNIHILATION WAVE--GETTING CLOSER EVERY DAY. WE NEED TO BE READY, SIR.

HM. IT'S CERTAINLY AN INTRIGUING PROPOSAL. I'LL NEED TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESS, AND STEVE ROGERS--

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR, I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. YOU'RE AWARE OF THE POLITICS AT PLAY HERE--THIS TECHNOLOGY WAS BROUGHT TO ME BY MARIA HILL, THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

NO ONE ADMIRES STEVE MORE THAN I DO, BUT--I'M CONCERNED HE MIGHT BE A BIT BIASED AGAINST IT.

BUT BEYOND THAT--IF WE'RE GOING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS, I NEED TO HAVE COMPLETE AUTONOMY. I NEED TO KNOW THAT STEVE MIGHT BE THE AUTHORITY DOWN HERE, BUT I'M IN CHARGE UP THERE.

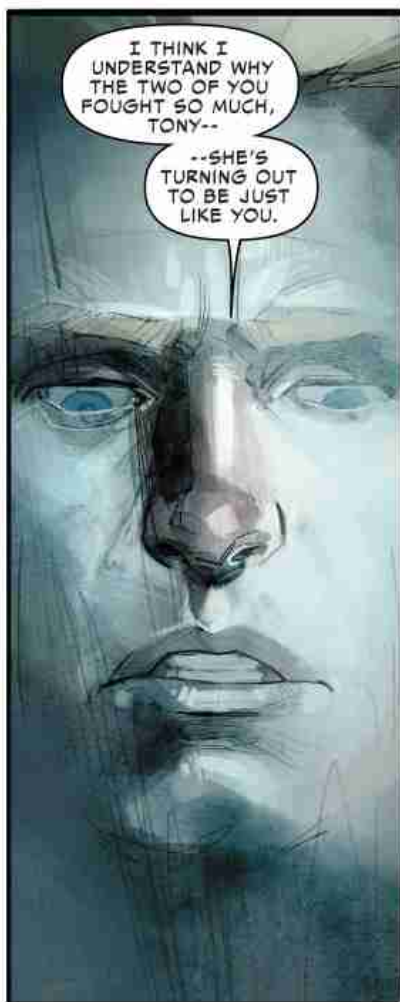
WELL, I...

LOOK, MR. PRESIDENT--THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE YOU ASKED ME WHAT I WANTED TO DO GOING FORWARD. YOU PUT A LOT OF...IMPRESSIVE OPTIONS ON THE TABLE.

AND I TOLD YOU I'D BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE. WELL, THIS IS IT--

--THIS IS OUR FUTURE.

ONE WHERE WE CONTROL OUR OWN DESTINY.



I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHY THE TWO OF YOU FOUGHT SO MUCH, TONY--

--SHE'S TURNING OUT TO BE JUST LIKE YOU.



BACK WHEN WANDA GAVE ALL OF US THE LIVES WE SECRETLY WANTED-- YOU REMEMBER WHAT **HERS** WAS?

CAPTAIN MARVEL. THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER HERO. LOVED BY EVERYONE. ADORED BY BILLIONS.



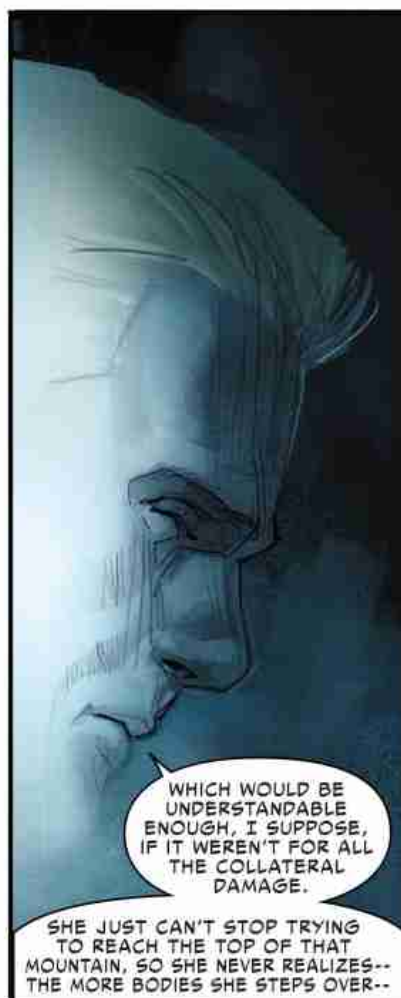
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SORRY FOR HER, IN A WAY. TO BE THAT DESPERATE FOR APPROVAL, TO HAVE NEVER LEARNED HOW TO FIND IT IN YOURSELF, TO HAVE TO CONSTANTLY SEEK IT OUT IN OTHERS.

IT'S AMAZING HOW IT ALWAYS **BACKFIRES**. HOW THE PEOPLE WHO NEED EVERYONE TO LIKE THEM ALWAYS END UP BEING THE MOST **HATED**.



THE TRUTH IS--AND I THINK YOU'D LOVE TO HEAR IT AND SHE'D NEVER ADMIT IT--SHE LET THIS WAR GET AS BAD AS IT DID FOR ONE SIMPLE REASON--

--SHE COULDN'T STOP TRYING TO PROVE TO HERSELF THAT SHE WAS **BETTER** THAN YOU. COULDN'T STOP FEELING LIKE THE OVERLOOKED SIBLING.



WHICH WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE ENOUGH, I SUPPOSE, IF IT WEREN'T FOR ALL THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

SHE JUST CAN'T STOP TRYING TO REACH THE TOP OF THAT MOUNTAIN, SO SHE NEVER REALIZES-- THE MORE BODIES SHE STEPS OVER--



"--THE DEEPER THE HOLE SHE DIGGS FOR HERSELF."

YOU'RE ANGRY WITH ME.





THE SHIELD IS A GOOD IDEA, STEVE.

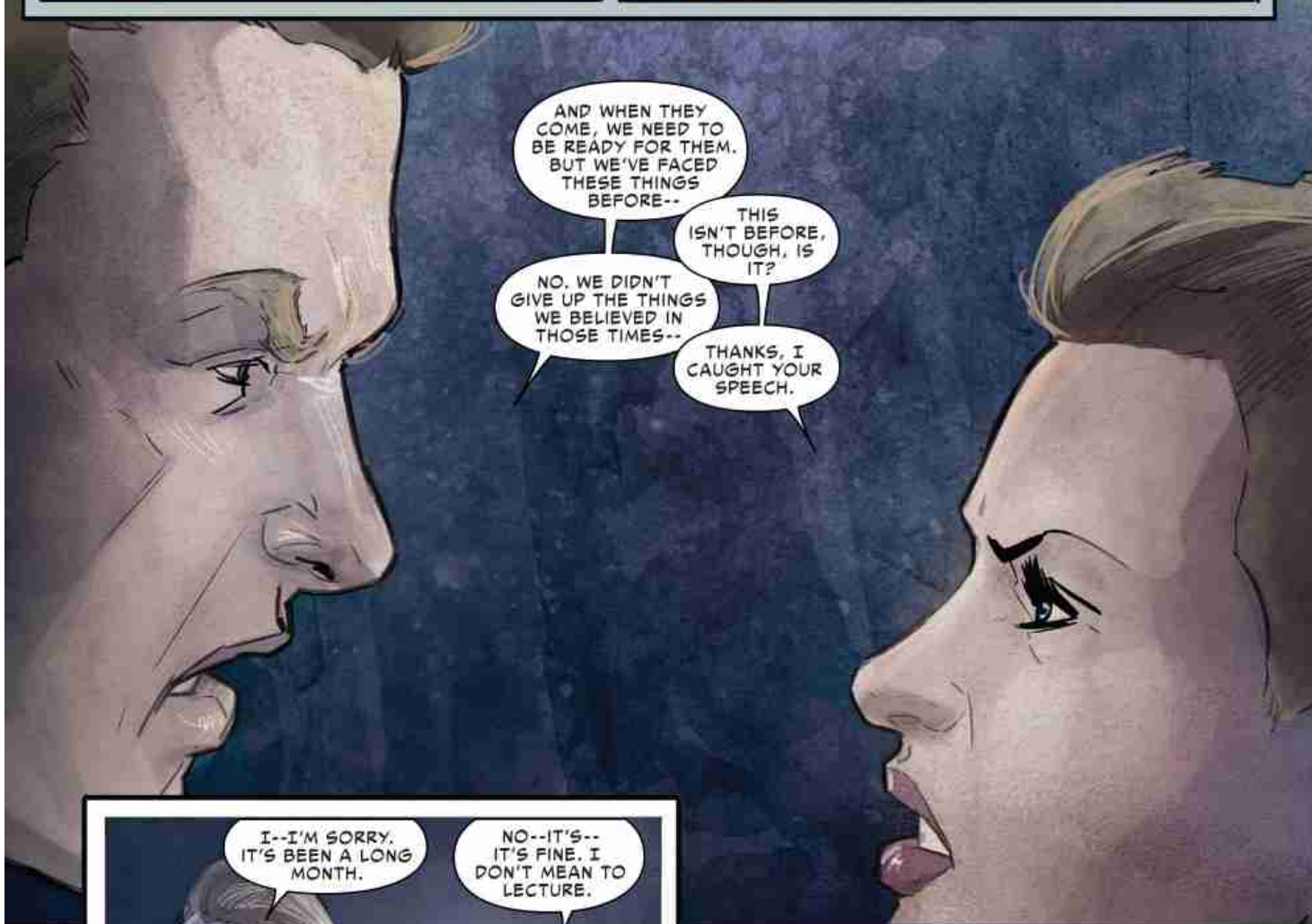
IT REALLY ISN'T. AND IT'S NOT EVEN YOURS--

WELL, TECHNICALLY, HILL FOUND IT IN THE VAULT OF A DECOMMISSIONED VERSION OF YOUR ORGANIZATION, SO LEGALLY IT'S KIND OF A GRAY AREA...



CUTTING US OFF FROM THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE, ISOLATING US--THAT ISN'T A DEFENSE, IT'S A MESSAGE. YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE'LL BE SAYING TO EVERY LIVING THING ON BOTH SIDES OF IT.

CAP, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU NOTICED, BUT THERE'S A WAR COMING. THE CHITAUURI FLEET IS GONNA BE IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM SOON--



AND WHEN THEY COME, WE NEED TO BE READY FOR THEM. BUT WE'VE FACED THESE THINGS BEFORE--

THIS ISN'T BEFORE, THOUGH, IS IT?

NO. WE DIDN'T GIVE UP THE THINGS WE BELIEVED IN THOSE TIMES--

THANKS, I CAUGHT YOUR SPEECH.



I--I'M SORRY. IT'S BEEN A LONG MONTH.

NO--IT'S-- IT'S FINE. I DON'T MEAN TO LECTURE.

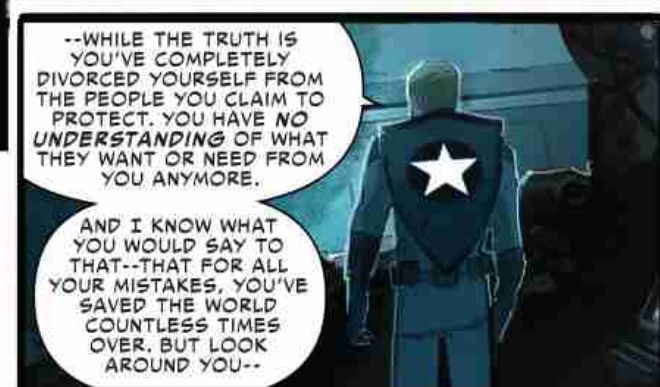
HEH. LIAR.



IT'S JUST--THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU JUST DID WITH ULYSSES. YOU THINK THERE'S SOME AMOUNT OF EFFECTIVENESS THAT ALLOWS YOU TO DIVORCE A SOLUTION FROM THE MORALITY OF IT.

IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY, CAROL. IF SOMETHING IS WRONG, IT'S WRONG WHETHER IT SUCCEEDS OR NOT.





"THEY WERE **AFRAID** WHEN ONE OF THEIR CHILDREN'S CLASSMATES SUDDENLY DEVELOPED THE ABILITY TO INCINERATE ANYONE AROUND THEM WITH A LOOK--

"--BUT THEY GOT **ANGRY** WHEN YOU CALLED THEM HYSTERICAL BIGOTS FOR SEEING THAT AS A THREAT TO THEIR SAFETY.

"THEY FELT **AFRAID** WHEN A NEIGHBOR THEY KNEW AND TRUSTED REVEALED THAT ABOVE THEIR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITIES, THEY NOW PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE TO AN ALIEN RACE--A RACE WITH A HISTORY OF **BRUTAL VIOLENCE** AGAINST HUMANITY--

"--BUT THEY GOT **ANGRY** WHEN YOU CALLED THEM INTOLERANT FOR NOT WANTING TO SLEEP NEXT TO THAT.

"YOU SEE, YOU ALL GET TO LIVE IN YOUR SUITS OF ARMOR AND HIDE OUT IN YOUR FORTRESSES--EVEN WHEN YOU **DIE**, YOU GET TO LIVE--

"--BUT THESE ARE **REAL PEOPLE**, TONY. THEY'RE NOT SO LUCKY. AND MAYBE THEY **DON'T** WANT THIS FORWARD-THINKING, FUTURIST UTOPIA YOU'RE BUILDING. MAYBE THEY **DON'T** WANT TO MOVE SO FAR, SO FAST."

THEY MIGHT HAVE EVEN TOLD YOU SO IF YOU EVER BOTHERED TO ASK. IF YOU HADN'T PRETENDED THEY DIDN'T EXIST.

AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM THE **ANGRIEST**, I IMAGINE. WATCHING YOU FLYING HIGHER AND HIGHER WHILE THEY FEEL THEMSELVES SINKING LOWER AND LOWER.

YOU BUILT GLEAMING TOWERS FULL OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, OPENED DOORWAYS TO NEW WORLDS--AND THEN YOU LEFT **THEM** BEHIND TO WALLOW IN THE DIRT.

HH. THAT YOU EVER THOUGHT IT WOULD LAST. THAT'S THE **REAL** ARROGANCE OF IT. YOU MADE YOURSELVES **GODS** AND NOW YOU WONDER WHY THE PEOPLE ARE READY TO **CRUCIFY** YOU.

AND **HE** KNEW THAT, TOO.





I'M ANGRY THAT YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR THIS. IN FACT, I'M HOPING--
PRAYING--THAT YOU CAN SOMEHOW HEAR ME AND THIS PULLS YOU OUT OF YOUR SLEEP.

BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO SEE THIS, TONY. MORE THAN ANYTHING--I **NEED** YOU TO SEE WHAT I DO NEXT.

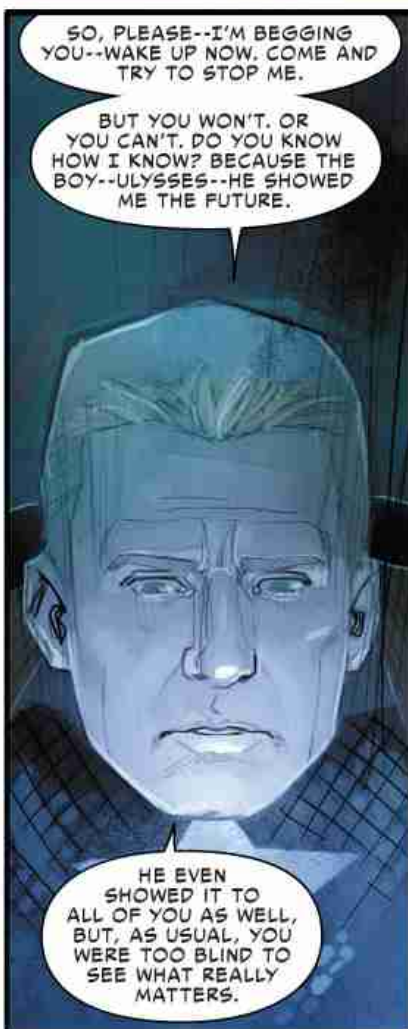


I AM GOING TO **DESTROY EVERYTHING** YOU EVER BUILT.

I AM GOING TO TEAR DOWN THESE INSTITUTIONS THAT YOU'VE USED TO GIVE YOURSELVES POWER. I'M GOING TO REDUCE ALL THAT YOU WORKED FOR, ALL YOU **BLED** FOR, TO A PILE OF RUBBLE AND ASH--



--AND FROM IT I AM GOING TO MAKE SOMETHING BETTER. I AM GOING TO MAKE THIS A **STRONGER** WORLD, ONE FORGED FROM **FIRE**.



SO, PLEASE--I'M BEGGING YOU--WAKE UP NOW. COME AND TRY TO STOP ME.

BUT YOU WON'T. OR YOU CAN'T. DO YOU KNOW HOW I KNOW? BECAUSE THE BOY--**ULYSSES**--HE SHOWED ME THE FUTURE.

HE EVEN SHOWED IT TO ALL OF YOU AS WELL, BUT, AS USUAL, YOU WERE TOO BLIND TO SEE WHAT REALLY MATTERS.

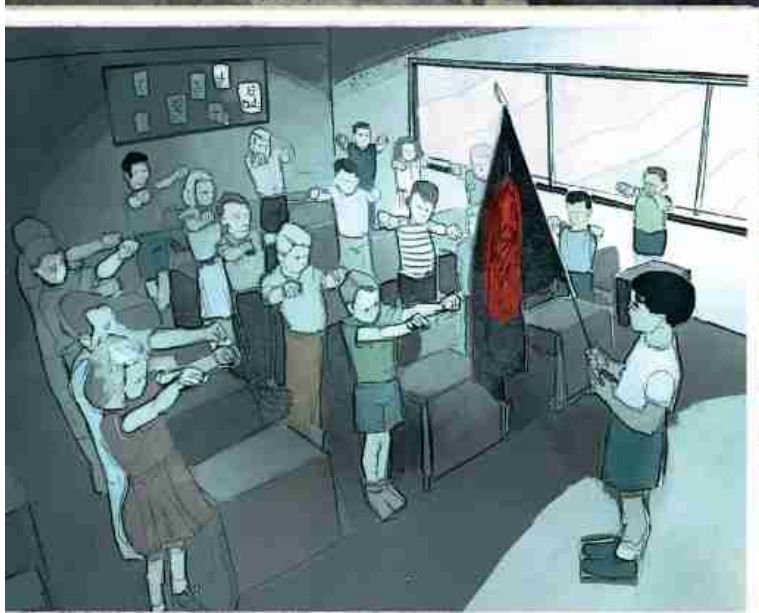


I WASN'T, THOUGH. IT WAS SOMETHING I'D CARRIED IN MY OWN DREAMS FOR A LIFETIME. AND WHEN I FOUND MYSELF THERE, **FINALLY**, THANKS TO HIM--

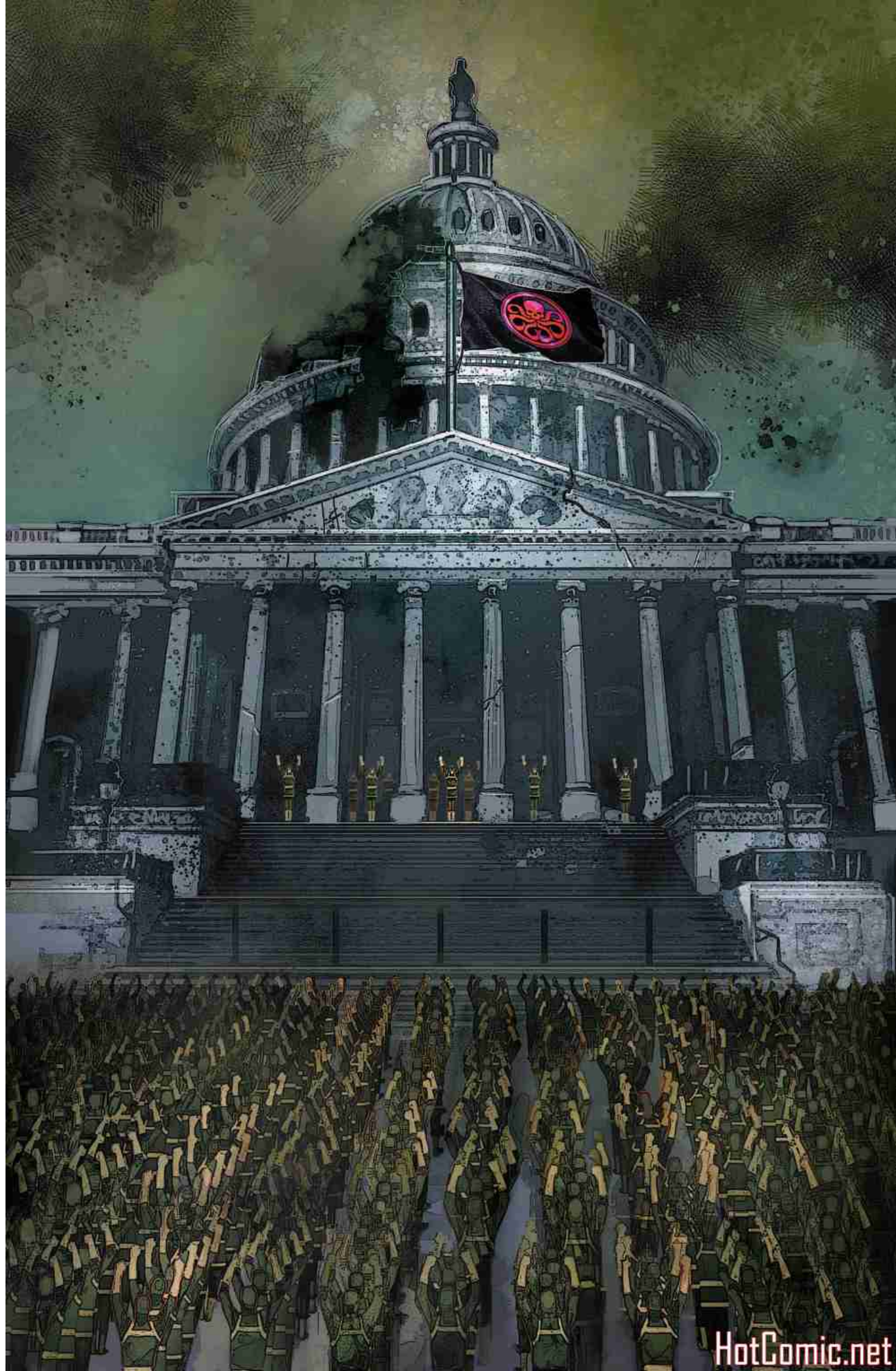
--I TOOK IN EVERYTHING AROUND ME. I LET MY EYES OPEN, AND I FELT THE VISION TAKE ME. LET IT REVEAL THE TRUTH TO ME AND ME ALONE. UNTIL NOW.



DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I SAW, TONY?







SECRET EMPIRE

